

the ratio of said monovalent metal compound to said acrylic acid compound in said precursor is an amount in the range of from about 0 to about 0.5 moles of said monovalent metal compound per mole of said acrylic acid compound and the ratio of said divalent metal compound to said acrylic acid compound in said precursor is an amount in the range of from about 0.15 to about 0.5 moles of said divalent metal compound per mole of said acrylic acid compound;

said acrylic acid compound is represented by the formula  $\text{CH}_2=\text{CR}-\text{COOH}$  wherein R is hydrogen or a methyl group;

said monovalent metal compound is represented by the general formula  $\text{X}_N\text{M}$  and said divalent metal compound is represented by the general formula  $\text{YM}_Z$  wherein Y is beryllium, magnesium calcium, strontium, barium or zinc; X is sodium, potassium, lithium, rubidium, cesium or an ammonia group; M is oxygen, a hydroxide group or a carbonate group;  $Z$  is 1 or 2, and  $N$  is 1 or 2[.]; and

said gel is stable at temperatures up to about 450 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### THE ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view of US 6,297,336 to Shioji.

Claims 3-5, 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected claim.

#### DISCUSSION

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view of US 6,297,336 to Shioji is traversed in light of the above amendments and for the following reasons.

Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitations of canceled claim 3. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to change

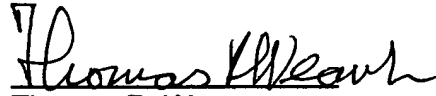
75 dependency from canceled claim 3 to claim 2.

76 Claims 9, 10 and 11 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, 6, 4, 5, 7, 8,  
77 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 remain under consideration.

78 It is submitted that rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 13 are now allowable in view of the  
79 inclusion in claims 1 and 12 of the limitations of canceled claim 3 which has not been rejected.

80 This application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are  
81 requested.

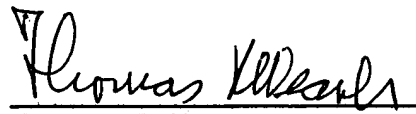
82 Respectfully submitted,

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89 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

90 I hereby certify that the within and foregoing document, together with the attachments  
91 referred to therein, if any, is being deposited by the undersigned with the United States Postal  
92 Service as first class mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to the  
93 Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on February 27,  
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